

11/90. *de. 47*
E F F E C T S *2.*
OF THE
S T A G E
ON THE
M A N N E R S OF A P E O P L E :
AND THE
P R O P R I E T Y OF ENCOURAGING AND ESTABLISHING
A
V I R T U O U S T H E A T R E .

A Haliburton (W.)
BY A B O S T O N I A N .



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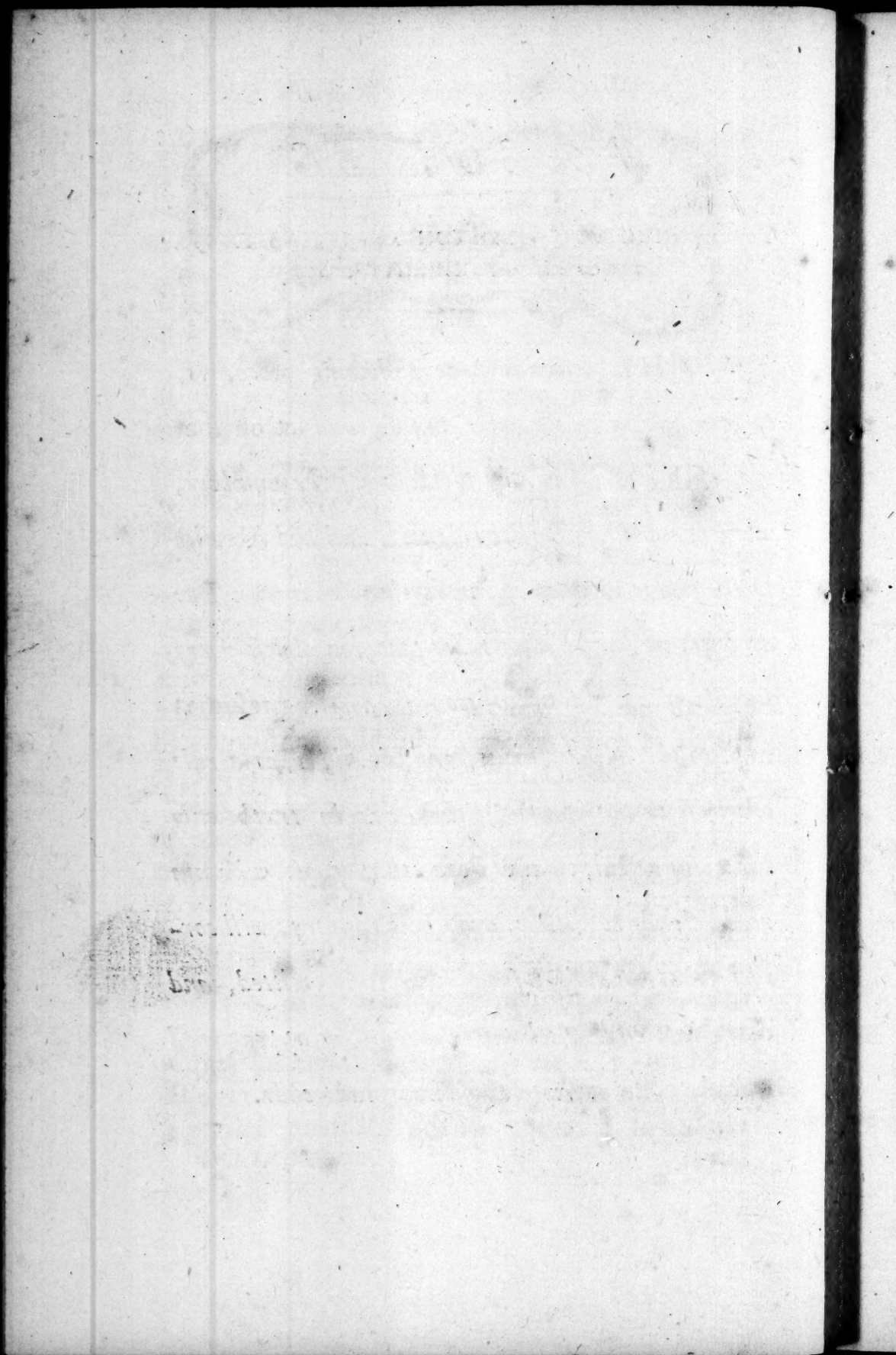


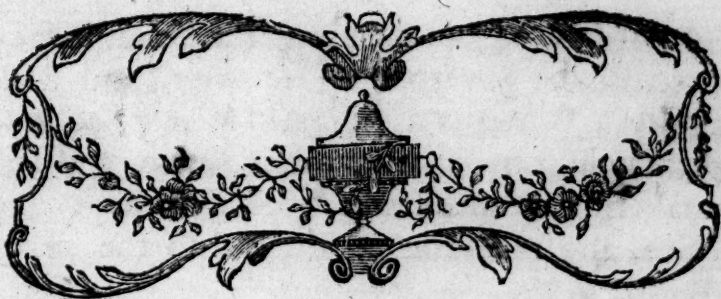
P R E F A C E.

TO THE CITIZENS OF BOSTON AND INHABITANTS
OF MASSACHUSETTS.

THE design of the following piece, is, to suppress vice, promote virtue, and set on foot manufactures ; thereby to increase the numbers, wealth, and power of the State ; and add likewise to the value of estates in town and country : But as difference of opinion takes place, on almost every subject of human disquisition, the writer presumes not, to obtrude his ideas, and his plans, as a rule or guide to the public ; they are in truth only hints suggested, in the hope, that those who are real friends to virtue, and their country, will correct what is amiss, supply what is omitted, and carry into effect such parts thereof, as appear well calculated to promote those important ends.

A BOSTONIAN.





T H E

EFFECTS OF THE STAGE, &c.

P A R T I.

AS the Theatre is once more become the theme of general conversation, and the minds of many appear to be filled and agitated with the subject, it will not be improper to throw together a few observations on the Stage.

It is a subject of very great importance to society at large, and deserves the most serious attention of all those who are sincere friends to virtue and lovers of their country. For, whatever hath manifest and great effects upon the manners of a people, ought never to be overlooked by a wise government.

MANNERS are the great business of legislation. To restrain the vices, and encourage the virtues of a nation, is the ultimate design of laws.

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A vicious people are ever distrustful, turbulent, seditious, governed by severity, and with difficulty ! Whereas a virtuous society, actuated principally, by equity, benevolence, and the general fitness of things, readily adopt and practice, any measures conducive to the general weal.

AMERICA hath had a glorious struggle for liberty, and victory hath placed the laurel on her brow. Her constitution hath filled the world with admiration. In arts and sciences, she is making a very rapid progress. She hath exhibited many features of a great and rising nation ; yet are there some equivocal ones, discernible on her countenance, some traits that excite the apprehension of her friends.

WHEN we behold a youth adorned with active, graceful habits, an open front, and penetrating look, we are apt from thence to augur his future greatness : But favourable as we may be inclined to hope of him, our judgment is always guarded with proviso's, that he doth not suffer his manners to be corrupted, and, shall not run into bad courses. Such are the sentiments of many concerning America.

BLEST with serene skies, a healthy clime, grateful soils, a profitable growing commerce, and excellent constitution, America begins her career with many advantages ; but after all, hath she nothing to fear ?

ARE there no latent rocks in the stream of prosperity, whereon the gay vessel, with streamers

ers courting the zephyrs, may be suddenly bilged and broken ?

WILL not the worms of corruption endanger her safety, and reduce her hull, more than the decays of time ? Will not the furious storms, generated by luxury, vice and faction, force her on the rocks of destruction, before she hath completed her voyage ?

REARED up by a nation, far gone in scenes of folly and dissipation ; connected by habits of friendship and mutual intercourse with another, who hath made the greatest progress of any on earth in the refinements of luxury : Hath not America assumed the highest style of fashion ? Is not her key-note in the gamut of luxury such, that she cannot long support the same tune. Clear it is, that taste, high life, and the musical glasses, have been transferred to America, where they must soon be pushed to their utmost pitch. The consequences need not be foretold.

FASHION and luxury may be denominated the consumption, the hectic of nations, kingdoms and States, for which, there is perhaps no radical cure ; nevertheless, the progress of the disease may be accelerated, or retarded, by the ignorance, or skill, of the state physicians.

It is not an easy thing, now, for the gayer sons of America, to return to a life of simplicity and frugality. They have tasted of the cup of pleasure, and will not forbear. They have too much knowledge, and too many talents to confine themselves to the simple modes of obtaining

taining subsistence. Head-work is now in more repute than hand-work, and ease will not be exchanged for toil. All that remains to be done, is, to stay the progress of the distemper, and keep the patient on her legs, as long as possible.

As in pharmacy, the most efficacious medicines are those which are capable of doing most mischief ; so the Stage and music, having the greatest effect on mankind, are capable of doing the most hurt, and the most good, of any things known ; therefore it behoveth the rulers of the land, who are to the people, their political physicians, guardians and fathers ; to convert, both music and the Stage, to the improvement and advantage of the whole community. By preventing the rapid decline of morals, the existence of the State may be prolonged ; by amending manners, the State will be strengthened and amended : And, so long as a people are virtuous, for such length of time, their existence will be ensured. If there are any means of keeping the subjects sober, temperate, sincere, just, benevolent, obedient to laws, and lovers of their country, it is the duty of the government to discover, use, and improve such means ; it would be altogether sinful, and impious in them to neglect them.

IN aid of virtue, man was originally endued with a certain delicate sensibility, whereby he distinguishes beauty from deformity, the grand and sublime, from bombastic rant, declamation, and fulsome flattery : He hath an inward perception,

ception which enables him to distinguish the proper from the improper ; and to determine the boundaries of right and wrong : Whence, all the species from the highest to the lowest, are subjected to the observation and censure of each individual ; and each, when inclined to sit in judgment on his peers, remembers that he in his turn shall be judged by others ; and therefore courts the esteem and plaudits of his fellow men. To perfect the social union, strength, wealth, talents, genius and capacity, (the gifts of heaven) are bestowed on different persons and in different proportions. Whence arise among strangers, the mutual offices and aids of fraternal-love ; the strong man employs his strength for the weakly, and sedentary ; in return for the others, advice and assistance ; the poor gives his labour to the wealthy for bread ; and the talents of genius become the property of power in exchange for preferment, protection, &c.

FEW there are who excel in wisdom and understanding ! Yet there are in some men a spirit and a talent that will exalt them above their fellows.

A MAN while a living actor on the stage of the world, becometh both precept and example to others ; the view and consideration of his virtues will effectuate more than volumes of sermons ; his crimes, his follies and his fate become in the mouth of wisdom, lectures on prudence and the most forcible admonitions to

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her attentive pupils : His conduct is recorded in the volume of history, whose page is appointed to blazon his prudence or his folly for the instruction of succeeding generations.

THERE are, comparatively speaking, but few of those who read history, that can enter into its true spirit, or derive to themselves any advantage from it : Hence the stage was employed to recal with mimic art from the oblivious silent tomb, the legislators, heroes, statesmen, philosophers, patriots and philanthropists of every age. To drag from their graves the effeminate, weak, wicked, designing, cruel, revengeful and lascivious wretches, who on thrones, or otherwise disgraced the annals of mankind.

To display the great, sublime and perfect of each character with all the charms of attractive loveliness ; or tearing the mask from vices' painted visage, to present her, in all her native deformity to our astonished view ; to reanimate the good man long since numbered with the dead, invite him from his retired walks, and bring his virtues into public view : or to disclose to the wondering spectators, all the horrors of domestic tyranny long since ended, to represent with raptures, the virtues of past ages, and teach both themselves and the charmed multitude, to become in truth what they but represent : To describe in delicate language in the most finished colouring, and with powerful action, the character and fate of the profligate debauchee, the perjured lover, the devoted gamester,

gamester, the besotted drunkard, &c. What man could behold the same unmoved ? or leave the scene without solemn vows of amendment ? This is the proper business of the stage !

HERE music lends her aid divine, softens the savage heart, awakes the sympathetic powers of love, and melting pity lifts the rapt soul to Him who educes good from evil, who sees and shelters virtue in distress : With the animating descriptions of the Stage, music combines her soft, deep-felt, retentive sounds, her enchanting powers ; and thenceforth united they return with trebled energy, dwell on the fancy, and govern the man when busied on the daily concerns of life.

THE burthen of the interludes should be the praise of the virtues of heroic souls, and all such personages as truly deserved the name of great ; particularly the virtuous characters described in the scenes then acting, previously composed by the author of the play, in numbers well adapted to the subject, most affecting, and set to music by the greatest masters.

BANISHED forever, should be all unintelligible Italian airs, trills, affected squeaks and quavers ; nothing but the deep-felt voice of nature, in harmonic sounds (vocal and instrumental united) can convey with fullest energy, the powers of music to the enraptured soul.

HENCE the Stage would become to America, not only the nurse of wisdom, but the school of oratory, sculpture, painting and music ;—Would place her artists foremost on the roll of fame ;

fame; and for the true sublime, her writers would excel the world.

THE play ended, to preserve the good impression made, no further exhibitions should be suffered for that time. All farces, pantomimes, low-jesting, witticisms, buffoonery, rope-dancing, &c. (which serve only to waste the time and money of the people without any one benefit in return; and have moreover an evident tendency to deprave their taste and corrupt their morals) should be forever banished the Theatre, and all places of public resort, as infinitely beneath the dignity of a polite and sensible people.*

IT is often asserted, that the Stage should be conformed to, and governed by the taste of the people. Who are those people that have the best pretensions to taste? Are they the multitude, or the chosen few? Taste depends much on the means and opportunity of studying and cultivating the polite arts, which presupposes both fortune and leisure for such pursuits; upon the reading good authors, and an ability to make proper

* WITH respect to farce, and pantomime, the author presumes not to dictate; the whole piece is only a few hints suggested for abler heads to improve upon: Surely the genius of America may always be able to furnish subjects for the Stage, that shall awake the soul, agitate, fill, and delightfully employ her attention for a few hours; and where innocent, genuine wit and humour abounds, it matters not whether they go by the name of tragedy, comedy or farce.

BUT this one hint should be given with the rest. Living subjects now acting their parts upon the great Stage of the world, cannot with propriety be brought upon the Theatre of amusement; nor would it be useful.

RIDICULE and satire against living characters, employed by so powerful an engine as the Stage, would be truly dangerous and pernicious; they are unfit to be used in that way before children, servants, and low, or weak people, who, having once learned such notes, are ever after insolent, refractory and ungovernable. To ridicule, satire, &c. are principally owing, that the greater seminaries, are so corrupt, vicious and disorderly, and the same effects will probably be discernible at all times, and in all places.

proper comments upon them ; upon the keeping of good company, and the frequent opportunities of exercising the disquisitive and critical powers of the mind, so as to form a true estimate of the merit of the greatest writers.

GENIUS and capacity of understanding, are not equally distributed among the sons of men. These inequalities were wisely established by the great Creator to make men dependant upon, and mutually serviceable to each other ; for if every one had equal advantages, each would become indifferent, and useless to the other.— Moreover, man was made, an observant, imitative, emulative animal ; fond of copying and even surpassing his exemplar, or pattern ; yet the most part of men, will not take the trouble to think for themselves : And how many are not capable ? What multitudes are there, who, like sheep, follow their bell-wethers, or leaders, over hedges and ditches without regarding consequences ! Are there not numbers, who, if they have but a pattern, or precedent among their superiors, or whom they deem such, think *that* sufficient for them ; and will not attend to the propriety of what they are about to do, but will take their sports, fashions, and even their religion upon trust ; may be persuaded to any thing, and led any whither, provided you touch not their purse, and leave them at liberty to say they acted wholly of their own free will.

SURELY ! These are not the people to establish taste, and transmit the character of the present Americans to future ages.

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As a created, dependant being, and as a member of society, man hath several relative offices and duties. With respect to his intercourse with the Deity, each one hath right to think and act for himself; but whatever relates to society, and the due ordering thereof, generally or particularly becomes an object of government. Those persons, who, for their knowledge, prudence, and integrity, were elected by the suffrages of their fellow citizens, and appointed to govern each particular state, are interested, and obliged in conscience and by the duties of their office, to take notice of every thing, which nearly or remotely affects or *can* affect the welfare of the state they are appointed to govern. Knowledge, industry, economy, cleanliness, temperance, sobriety, sincerity, justice, benevolence, the love of order, and love of country, are all of infinite concern to the state, to society, and to individuals; and therefore of the highest political importance to government, come within, and fall directly under the cognizance of both the executive and legislative powers. And as the Stage hath the most immediate, intimate and affecting relation to the several advantages and virtues here mentioned, the *erecting* and *correcting* of the stage, the support, encouragement, and continuance thereof, becomes directly a concern; a most important concern of government; the *neglect* or *bad use* whereof, they will find it difficult to excuse to themselves, to their constituents, and to posterity. There are two ways of reforming
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mankind, politically, and morally ; the effects of the Stage are great in both ! The union of church and state hath been very justly reprobated ; souls can be dependant only on their maker. The stage is properly connected with government, an engine in their hands, to *impel, direct, or restrain* the spirits of a nation ! It becomes a part of the administration of the *public weal* ; reforms as much of the morals, as relates to society, the rest it leaves to heaven ! It is nevertheless an excellent preparative for the higher duties of religion, by purifying the mind from the grosser defilements of sin, according to Saint Peter's doctrine ; and encourages in the soul, a relish for those more exalted truths declared from the pulpit. Virtue and vice may be compared to boys on a balanced plank, the power of each depending on his position, and his weight ; government may scourge vice, and shew its hatred thereof, by inflictions nearly as painful to humanity as to the culprit ; but while vice keeps its position, all punishments are vain ! Wisdom says, try another experiment, add encouragement, honour and rewards (which are real weights) to the other end ; vice will instantly become too light, and be obliged to yield the contest. So easy it is to give preponderancy to either ! The simile is confessedly imperfect. Yet, surely a virtuous administration must be solicitous to combine all possible motives for the reformation of manners.

GOVERNMENT will do well to consider the state of society in Boston and the other towns
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under their care ; they cannot but observe, that the people are left much to their own heads ; that the *fervour* of religion is much abated, that interested views and selfish designs begin to triumph over morality, and are daily gaining ground. That fashion, and luxury are in rapid progression, and must shortly produce those effects in America which they ever have produced where they prevailed.

THAT those persons who attend many hours to study, business, or labour, want something to unbend and amuse their minds ; many indeed, are seen to prefer the more laudable measure of walking in the mall and other places of polite resort. Retiring afterwards to elegant company and pleasing converse ; but, many, and too many there are, who, after the fatigues of the day, resort to gaming-houses, taverns, &c. and when heated with liquor, resort to still worse places ; the consequences whereof may be better imagined than recounted.

THOSE who practice such follies, are frequently designated under the characters of the blind, the lame, the weak, and helpless : It will be allowed, that the same extensive knowledge, wisdom, prudence and integrity, which gained the present rulers the suffrages of their fellow citizens, qualified those rulers to be, and (in some measure) requires them to become eyes to the blind, feet to the lame, and a shelter to the weak and helpless, in every sense of the words : Are they not called on to provide some other sources of amusement for such blind and lame

lame people ? Some other channels of pleasure, whose direction is not towards the confines of misfortune, disease and destruction ? Would it not be proper to encourage public evening lectures upon geography, astronomy, navigation, botany, agriculture, natural and experimental philosophy, &c. &c. &c. which would not only withdraw many from pernicious pursuits, but fill their minds with pleasing, useful knowledge ; others of a different taste might be diverted from vice, by wrestling, leaping, pitching the bar, and boxing with hands muffled, and by foot races of evenings and moonlight nights, &c. encouraged by celebrating public games, once in five years. These would render the people active, hardy, healthy, and emulous of praise ; would furnish topics of conversation more agreeable, and not so pernicious, as scandal and detraction. The present evening military exercises would be promoted by all means, and rendered further beneficial by lectures on gunnery, fortification, and the whole science of tactics, delivered at stated times. Such measures would deprive vice and folly of many votaries, and render America a terror to invaders.

WHAT honour would they not deserve in this world ; and what ecstatic rewards in the next, if they devised some means to set the poor females to work—[see the manufactures enumerated as proper for that purpose in the conclusion of the first part]—and thus enable those weak creatures to earn subsistence with the blessed labour of their own hands, instead of being oblig-

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ed, as many of them are, much against their wills, to earn their daily bread by means painful to humanity, and shocking to decency :

WOULD it not be proper, honourable, and becoming the dignity of a free, enlightened government, to consider more attentively, the greater and lesser divisions on the scale of equal liberty ? Whose proportions on the line of rights, are founded upon utility and the general good combined with particular happiness.—The first article in the universal rights stands thus—“ Every rational being hath right to discover, pursue, and enjoy, every species of pleasure that his constitution innocently requires, or admits ; which can be obtained, or enjoyed without injury, prejudice, or inconvenience to others :”

WILL it be betraying the trust reposed in them, or departing from their dignity, to consider, that the sensible, polite inhabitants of Boston (many of them) are desirous and anxious to have a Theatre, where they may pass the hours of relaxation, after the fatigues of the day ; where they may hope to be amused and instructed without injury, prejudice, or inconvenience to any ; and without offending against any law ?

THOSE of the subjects who oppose it, ought to consider, whether they have any right to prevent others enjoying such amusements as they are fond of ? Because that *they the opponents*, have no relish for them. Can such opposition be justified on any principles whatsoever ? As
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well might they forbid others to sing, dance, or regale themselves upon particular dishes, because that they have no ear for music, no skill in dancing nor relish for such dishes. To state it most favourably for such opponents, if, in their estimation, they considered the Theatre as an useless or idle amusement, yet, if by abstaining from it they themselves might avoid all possible injury and inconvenience ; surely, they can have no pretence for prohibiting those who find a pleasure in it, and who moreover hope to be instructed and improved by it.

THE Clergy, it is acknowledged, opposed the Theatre from motives that will forever reflect the highest honour upon their order ; and happy was it for Massachusetts, and perhaps for the whole union, that the Theatre was not then permitted by law ; as now there will be an opportunity of introducing it, in a way extensively useful and beneficial to the poor, to the rich, and to government.

THE gentlemen of the Clergy well knew, that man's happiness, and even his liberty is best promoted by restraining his passions and appetites, and bringing his will into subjection to his reason ; that no slavery can be so grievous or dangerous as the slavery of the passions ; and that nothing accelerates the ruin of a people like licentiousness. They believed, and rightly, that the Stage in its present form, whether in Europe or America, is destructive of those morals, that order, and that peaceful regularity, which forms the basis of social happiness ; sub-
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versive of that piety and reverential regard towards God and men which is the foundation of religion. That the portraits given by the English and French dramatists of the manners of those two kingdoms, represent gallantry, gaming, drinking and profanity, as the most prominent features of society in towns : Fox hunting, horse racing, bribery at elections, and rapes of women in the country : Dissimulation, over-reaching, intrigue, and sales of places at court : Dishonesty, hypocrisy, meanness, and poverty at church ; they shew that the world is altogether a cheat, and that *they only* are fools and blockheads, who cannot act their parts therein with a good grace. And are such the manners to be introduced into America ? Further, of their music, it is observed, that it is effeminate, and as seductive as their descriptions ; both calculated to spread far and wide the contagion of vice.

THE Clergy expected the Stage would introduce with it its old companions, farce, pantomime, puppet shew, rope dancing, foolish mummery, railing and scoffing at morals, and moreover employ libels, and the most severe satire against the best characters in society, when opposed to their views ; that by means of its corrupt manners, immorality and the love of pleasure, like a flood, would pervade and overflow the land ; and feared, that the influence of the pulpit would be thereby daily weakened, and finally rendered of little use to society.

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BUT, bad as the Stage really is, those gentlemen should consider how they can prevent its admission. Observe but the arts used to introduce it in the other states, and now employed here; that, like determined seducers, they treat the public as the others do the intended objects of seduction; make their approaches by degrees, one freedom is taken after another; and those encourage to more, which if not timely checked, and spiritedly resented, furnish an excuse, or license to proceed still greater lengths, till they have despoiled the poor female of all she had to boast of; then they despise, maltreat her, and imprudently triumph both in their success and her shame.

IT should be observed that the people co-operate with the wandering Stage adventurers, and promote their designs, without knowing the tendency of them; that there are many ways of evading the laws among a people so generally inclined to the Stage; but a government who suffer their laws to be trifled with, or insulted, will find such precedents very dangerous; and therefore should repeal all such laws as they do not determine to enforce.

ON the other hand the Clergy should consider that a well regulated Stage (where none are suffered to write for it, or to act on it, but such as are gentlemen of genius and merit, the promotion of virtue, and real honour their grand aim) would diffuse knowledge, correct the manners, and banish from the vulgar that spirit of riot and disorder so prevalent among them; would

would entice many from gaming tables, taverns, ale houses, and bad houses ; *would* soon make such places and practices generally detestable ; and, like the collision of flint with steel, discover the heavenly spark of genius wherever latent, awake the noble desire of praise and the soul of generous emulation ; would also introduce and encourage a spirit of submission, love of order, love of country, and with them, a love of the laws by which so happily governed.

EVERY order of the people would be instructed and reformed, and their conduct being bottomed on sound political morality, the Clergy might, with less difficulty and more hope of success, thereupon rear the beauteous and superb structure of religion : Be *theirs* then the laudable task of advocating a virtuous Stage, to prevent the admission of a hurtful vicious one ; and thus the happiness of America be promoted in every view.

By such means the character of an actor in America, would become a dignified distinction, and a desirable provision for life.

THE appearances of one or two Roscius's on the Massachusetts Stage, would furnish to her university and seminaries of learning every where, a new and animated style of education, that would prepare her sons to render great and distinguished services to their country : The Bar would feel its enlivening influence, and thence men like Demosthenes and Cicero, be no more such rare characters as of old. The Senate walls in Boston would soon re-echo to
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American Sheridans, sublime, persuasive and powerful as him, who, taught by a parent actor, now shakes the British Senate. From such a Stage, the pulpit might deem it no dishonour to borrow that pathos, and dignified action, so proper to the sublimity of religion; which would not only adorn the doctrines of Christ, but give additional force to those energetic lectures which a polite attentive audience would receive with glowing pleasure from a polite, sensible and animated preacher.

THOSE gentlemen who are actors, men of genius and professional excellence, will very cheerfully accede to this plan, it would be indeed a very cruel reflection on them to suppose that for the same pay, they would not as soon, nay much rather promote the interest of virtue. They would feel a new additional and very forcible motive in the hope of informing and amending a great number of their own species; in contemplating the many, many beings exalted to rationality by their means.

THE repeal of the act against Theatres is not the sole object of this address to the public; no, it is the introduction, and permanent establishment of a Theatre under such regulations as shall do honour to America.

A THEATRE should be built in Boston, of durable materials, large enough to accommodate four, five, or six thousand spectators; which, on occasion, might also serve other town purposes; every provision should be made for decent and dignified exhibitions; the pay of the mana-

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gers and actors fixed on the most liberal principles ; the sole property in the town, and the profits after all expenses applied to town uses. There are gentlemen enough who would advance their money, and be at all the expense for a few years of the profit, whereby instead of cost and expense, it would in a short time, or a very few years, produce a considerable nett revenue ; notwithstanding that those classes who cannot afford to pay for theatrical amusements, be allowed one evening in the week gratis ; the Stage being calculated and intended as much for their instruction and improvement as for any of the other orders.

THE principal actors beside large pay, may acquire much money by teaching action, oratory, &c. Men of taste and learning, not otherwise employed, would find it both honourable and profitable to write for the Stage ; and many little helps would accrue to the artificers, tradesmen, and mechanics of the town, in the several items thereto realting.

IN all the great events of America, Massachusetts hath either led the way, or taken a principal share in them ; the other states, some of them, have been treated with contempt by the quondam actors ; but Massachusetts hath too much discernment, and too high a sense of her dignity to suffer such treatment ; the character of her rulers, and legislators for wisdom and prudence, justify the highest expectations, and to them perhaps will the Americans be indebted for their estimation in future times.

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IN a country where climate, soil and aliments, (operating on the clear perceptions of native genius) promise as much for the Americans as any people now in being ; with a rising character among the nations What can, or will expand their powers, or mature and perfect their genius, like a well regulated Theatre, supported by the most affecting and animating music ?

It was neither the climate, genius, nor constitutions of Greece and Rome, that alone raised them to that distinction and celebrity in the annals of mankind : It was their Theatres and music, together with their games, which inspired, improved and elevated them. Such, and even greater (the extent, numbers, and commerce of the Union, considered) may be their effects in America if suitable games be adopted, and such are the aspiring hopes of A BOSTONIAN.

THE hint of setting the poor females to work, in page 17, suggests a variety of manufactures that give employment principally to women and children, both in town and country ; and will serve to lay the foundation of extensive national fabrics.

1. Spinning of linen threads, coarse and fine for the shops.
 2. Making stay laces of all sorts.
 3. Weaving shoe bindings, ferrets, gartering and galloons :
 4. Weav. tapes of all sorts and widths, linen and worsted :
 5. Mak. bobbin of all sorts :
 6. Mak. fringes for wear and for furniture of thread and silk :
 7. Weav. of coarse linens, toweling, &c. diaper, huckabuck and damask napkins and table-cloths :
 8. Weav. handkerchiefs of linen and cotton :
 9. Weav. men's and women's hose, of thread, worsted and silk :
 10. Weav. men's and women's mitts and gloves, of
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different materials : 11. Weav. worsted caps, &c. 12. Weav. buckrams and canvas for women's work and window blinds : 13. Weav. gauzes and crapes, of linen, yarn, &c. 14. Mak. edgings and laces of the coarsest kind, and advancing in fineness as they improve in practice : 15. Weav. of drilling and other narrow cloths of flax : 16. Weav. bed ticking, &c.

N. B. When the above come to be established, the demand for linen threads will give employ to all the wheels throughout the State, and increase the demand for flax.

17. Weav. shallons, durants, tammies, ruffles, &c. &c. 18. Weav. narrow woollen cloths, &c. 19. Weav. blankets : 20. Weav. broadcloths : 21. Mak. fans and fanmounts : 22. Mak. artificial flowers, &c. 23. Mak. flop clothing, women's quilts, cardinals, &c. from materials fabricated or imported : 24. Printing of linens, also white cottons from India, which thus managed afford a handsome profit : 25. The raising of mulberry trees will be profitable for timber, shade and fruit, and still more for feeding silk worms, which give great employ for women and children, and likewise make preparation for silk manufactures. These trees can be raised throughout the State.

N. B. Such persons as shall add to the foregoing list, other articles which may be useful, will deserve thanks. And those who will begin and establish, any of the foregoing manufactures in town or country, will be deemed public benefactors.

PART

P A R T II.

AS amusement, instruction and improvement on the foregoing plan, would go hand in hand ; to extend those advantages as much as possible, the Theatre should be so large as to contain *one third* of all those inhabitants in Boston, who have attained the age of understanding and discretion ; supposed to be about eight thousand of both sexes ; the third whereof is nearly three thousand, and by the addition of strangers, and gentlemen and ladies from the adjacent towns, would fully complete four thousand. This number is not beyond what will be the fact, when it is considered that the people will think themselves under a moral obligation to attend as often as they can : Moreover, Boston will be much increased in a few years.

This will enable to set the tickets so low, that more people can afford to attend, and thus the benefits will become more universal ; and the expense of two or three nights in this way, to the spectators, would scarcely exceed the price of one in the small Theatres, where the tickets must of necessity be high !

MOREOVER, by entertaining one third of the inhabitants, in each of the three representations every week, the whole town will have the opportunity of attending at least once a week. And should any, through indisposition or otherwise, absent themselves, there will be great numbers (who cannot be satisfied with attending

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ing once a week) to supply their places ; so that such a Theatre will always be crowded.

THE revenue in this way would be so large, as to allow handsome compensations to the managers, actors, assistants, &c. and after all expenses paid, there would remain a large sum annually, to promote and encourage such arts and manufactures, as may employ the poor women and children of the town, in the ways beforementioned ; or in others that wisdom and humanity may devise ; and the residuum may be applied to maintain the infirm and helpless poor.

IF this plan take in most of its parts, the world will allow the Americans to have far excelled the celebrated Athenians, who taxed themselves heavily, and applied the public revenue to the support of Theatres, making it death to propose other application of those funds.—Whereas in Boston, the same public amusements will not only be obtained in greater perfection, without cost or charge, but will bring in a large revenue, to be applied to the purpose of beginning, promoting, and establishing manufactures, that will in time become great national objects (and could not otherwise have been established without annual bounties, paid out of the state treasury) and will moreover operate as a remission of taxes, to all those who are rated and pay to the poors maintainance.

AFTER such manufactures fully established, the aids and bounties given from this fund, should be withdrawn, and applied to similar improvements,

improvements, or otherwise as the Legislature may think proper.

THE inhabitants of the State at large, have too much understanding, not to perceive, that a metropolis proportioned to the numbers and extent of territory in the state, is one principal mean of giving value to their own estates ; and, that no greater misfortune can befall them, than the utter destruction, or annihilation of their capital city. Hence it follows that an increase of their metropolis, to the magnitude above mentioned, becomes an increase of estates to themselves.

A FEW moments attention will also convince them, that a virtuous grand Theatre, such as above described, must operate to the enlarging and enriching of a town, whose arts, manufactures, numbers, and wealth, becomes a principal cause of multiplying and enriching the inhabitants throughout the state. These inducements to a thinking, knowing people, should be alone sufficient to determine the advantage of the measure proposed ; exclusive of that more cogent one, of encreasing the knowledge, and amending the morals of a metropolis, whose manners (be they what they may) will extend into, and become the leading features of the people in the country.

To bring the different considerations into one point of view, the sensible inhabitants of Massachusetts, are desired to reflect, that a Theatre will at all events be *introduced* ; that opposition will be altogether vain, and will serve rather

rather to produce the very effects meant to be prevented ; namely, the introduction, and encouragement of a vicious, hurtful Theatre ; whereby the friends of virtue, in town and country, will have the sore mortification of beholding vice making a rapid progress ; and of seeing weak and wicked men enriching themselves by *corrupting* the morals of a town, whence the country borrow their own manners, and will have no other alternative, but to acquiesce therein, or establish a Theatre, whose tendency shall be to withdraw the people from vicious pursuits, to make them quiet, orderly, sober, cleanly, industrious, and economists ; whose every exhibition will serve to inspire sincerity, justice, benevolence, piety to parents, and love of country ; at the same time that it establishes manufactures, maintains the poor, invites strangers from all parts, and increases the numbers and wealth of a town, whose expenditures, much of them, go to enrich the country. Particularly it will be the means of causing new and additional demands for iron, timber, hemp, flax, wool, leather, fuel, fruits, roots, greens, grain, butter, cheese, meat, and poultry of all kinds ; hay, cyder, and many *et cæteræ's* that cannot be here enumerated.

AND they have further to reflect, that though many in the country, be utterly indifferent to the welfare of the metropolis, or even desirous to prevent their brethren in the town from enjoying the amusement and instruction, which a virtuous Theatre furnishes to refined taste ;
yet

yet such being the privilege of every citizen, while not injurious to others, and still more the right of so great a town as Boston ; they can have no excuse for opposing the repeal of the law against theatrical exhibitions. Such opposition would in truth, be imputed to some other score than that of conscience. Ye who dwell in Massachusetts' sylvan bowers, in the vales of retirement, the fields where mild philosophy delighted, seeks instruction, repine not at the lot of another, whose inward feelings you know not. The rose, so beauteous and so sweetly scented, is it not beset with prickles and piercing thorns !

HE, whose mind is formed on benevolence and aided by discernment, beholds the cheerful mechanic toiling in town for your convenience, He sees the busy, anxious merchant, risking his property on the tempestuous, faithless ocean, to procure the rare spices, and curious manufactures of distant India, to gratify your taste, and please your wives and daughters ; labouring on from day to day, in the dirt and smoke of Boston, stunned with the din of trades, and the rattling of cars, breathing naught but infected air, to procure you, from every quarter, the necessaries, the comforts, and delights of life.

BEGRUDGE him not, therefore, his fine apparel, plenteous table, and splendid equipage, so dearly earned !

You, who enjoy nature's best gifts, a good stomach, sweet sleep and vigorous health : You, for whom she spreads her gayest carpet, and
pours

pours her most delicious fruits, need not envy monarchs !

BE pleased and generous to those who toil as much for you as for themselves. Let them enjoy the pleasures of a well regulated Theatre ! You are invited hereafter to come and taste those refined delights with your brethren in Boston ! But forget not, that now you have an opportunity to exalt the American character in town and country ; and, what perhaps you may not have again, a chance to give your State the lead in a design so distinguishing and glorious.

THE soul of man is truly of heavenly origin. He need only to contemplate his great powers and capacities, to be convinced of his high descent, even from God himself. A virtuous Theatre, combining every energy that can awake and excite his ambition, will enlarge his views, correct his manners, and exalt his aims, to every great and noble pursuit, within the compass of human excellence ! The effects, though great on all, yet greatest (where most needed) upon the distressed and neglected poor.

SUCH of the inhabitants as are desirous of attending the Theatre, and cannot afford to purchase tickets, should register their names, number fit to attend, and place of abode, at an office for that purpose appointed, which register should be alphabetically disposed ; and the tickets given gratis, worded nearly as follows:

THEATRE

T H E A T R E.

4 PERSONS.

ADMISSION gratis to M. A. B.
 of Street ward his
Wife, a *Son* and *Daughter*, on con-
 dition of good behaviour, ac-
 cording to the act. T. F.
 Manager.



THE time should be that which least inter-
 ferer with their labours or duties, and when
 clean and well drest.

THE law should provide, that on conviction
 (before a magistrate) of disorderly conduct, tu-
 mult or riot, at the exhibition, in the street, or
 elsewhere, the party shall forfeit his right to
 the Theatre; a punishment that will be found
 more afflictive and operative, than any fines or
 corporal punishments. The good effects of such
 a regulation, may be better imagined than ex-
 pressed.

To encourage authors or writers for the Stage,
 they should be paid from its revenue from £25
 to 50, or more, for a dramatic piece, according
 to the virtuous tendency and intrinsic merit
 thereof, when examined and approved by the
 managers; the copy right secured to the au-
 thor, and he to deliver to the managers, with-
 out other reward, twenty copies for the use of
 the Theatre; containing the several songs and
 choruses thereto belonging, and the music or
 E tunes,

tunes, printed with the work, lettered and bound in the most durable manner. The other copies the author may sell to such persons in town and country, who have a taste for plays, &c.

THUS *they* will be well rewarded, and thus all dramatic writings will be examined, vitious productions suppressed, and none go abroad but such as will have the most beneficial effects on the manners of a people. It would be well if the prologue could be made to give a brief and judicious account of the intent of the piece ; and the epilogue in a sensible and striking, yet delicate manner, explain the morality and application of it, and if done in poetic numbers, the better remembered ; but this is only a hint to the superior understanding of such writers.

Concerning Music, an opinion is sported, and an experiment proposed for the improvement thereof, with a view to restore something like that ancient and irresistible manner which the writer's fancy, rather than his experience, suggests. Music, considered simply as harmonic sounds, is adapted to the organ of hearing in such a manner as to produce very pleasing and delightful sensations. And all the Italians seek, is to express those sounds in an unintelligible variety ; the measure repeated or contrasted so as to excite admiration in the mind. We find also that sentiment hath a very great effect on the soul, that there is such a thing as harmonic or musical sentiment. We acknowledge music alone to be pleasing, but music and sentiment united,

united, must infinitely exceed. It was by those combinations that the ancient music was said to perform such wonders.

It is recorded that Orpheus' lyre moved the savage beasts, trees, stones, &c. which might mean allegorically, that therewith Orpheus civilized the rude and savage men of those days; caused them to associate for mutual aid and advantage; and taught them to build cities and other edifices for their defence; which evince, that he made use of harmonic sentiments and sounds united, and fully displays the power of his music.

THE modern music is not only faulty in such unintelligible sounds, but the variety of loud, harsh notes, of bassoons, trumpets and hautboys combined (better adapted to excite the rage of war, and drown the cries of battle) and the noisy organ are such, that the human voice cannot be heard, and all sentiment is lost, instead of soothing or raising the soul and delighting the delicate fine ear, they only serve to rack and torture it with the violence of sounds. Therefore to the attentive feeling mind, to the delicate, exquisite ear, the appeal is made, and the following trial proposed.

LET sublime, affecting sentiment, in the voice of manly, or feminine harmony, be accompanied with some instrument or instruments, capable of the full, deep, and well toned bass, as the viol; aided by the clear symphonic swell of the violin, timed, and executed in such manner, as only to give harmony to the human voice,

voice, and leave the sentiment at liberty, when the heart is thus attuned, to take full possession of the soul, and lift it in ecstasy, to the loftiest heights of passion : Or, move it delighted, into the profoundest depths of softened humanity.

IF the soul goes into the sentiment, the music and the sentiment will assuredly delight the soul, and both united, become altogether irresistible : But remember, the sentiment here intended, is not the low and trifling kind which cannot give delight.

BETWEEN the stanza's, music alone sounds best, and furnishes a pleasing variety ; likewise the whole band might be heard to advantage at sometimes, by way of relief, if properly timed.

IF the writer should eventually be mistaken, it is hoped the public will consider the attempt, as the effusion of a heart, desirous to excite the human mind to excellence, in every possible attainment.

THE Gentlemen who may be inclined to advance their money for the building, and decorations of the Theatre, &c. should have from six to ten per cent interest for their principal, the whole to be repaid in ten, fifteen or twenty years by annual payments ; it is confessed that the risk, and heavy repairs of canals, bridges, &c. entitle to larger profits ; but this being a substantial, durable building, not so liable to accidents, and kept in repair by the managers, the above interest will be very large profits, and many will be glad of such a chance. They might indeed be repaid as cash comes in, which
would

would discharge the whole in a very few years, but as money will be wanting the first year to encourage manufactures, &c. it would be advisable to repay them one tenth, one fifteenth, twentieth or thirtieth part annually, with the whole interest, as may be agreed on, and the longer the contract, the better for them.

THE building should be large, for the reasons before assigned, should be also commodious, durable and constructed in such style, as not to dishonour the American taste.

IF only a Theatre were wanting, a semi-circle would be the most commodious form; but as other, and greater advantages are intended, it would come cheaper, appear more beautiful, be more commodious, useful and durable in the form of a fourteen sided figure, as in the diagram upon the plate prefixed.

THE building should be surrounded with a piazza, whose pillars, at twelve feet distance, should help support a grand dome or roof, and add dignity to the whole figure; so contrived as to admit the light and let out the heated air; the whole body of the building to be furnished with windows, posited so as to be seen in the spaces between the surrounding pillars, also a small seat or bench, attached to the building, and carried from door to door, for the convenience of sitting under the piazza; a narrow coach road to surround the whole, lamps on every corner pillar, and, *if it could be obtained*, a garden of 20, 25 or 30 feet width, laid round the coach road, from gate to gate, stocked with
beautiful

beautiful flowers and aromatic herbs ; which will serve to regale several senses at once. Thus the piazza would become one of the most healthy and delightful walks in the world, and the gentlemen and ladies would be there sheltered from rain.

FULL half the building being reserved for the Theatre, a thirty feet passage gives ascent at each end to *large* stair-cases, communicating with the several apartments and galleries, the said passage ornamented by three noble arches with pendant lamps.

THE *first floor*, on one side, will accommodate the whole legislative assembly, in separate chambers (with convenient offices and committee rooms adjoining) where they may deliberate free from the noise of carriages, &c.

SOME will object to the legislature sitting in such a building ! It is asked, Would they object to sitting and deliberating in a temple or place of worship ? No, such places are intended to make men good ! This also is intended to suppress vice, and advance virtue ; and serves likewise to make men better, and more virtuous. Moreover this costs nothing, will be equally or more commodious than any other building they can erect or purchase ; and the assembly will be actually at the distance of 60 feet from the Theatre, with no less than three intervening walls of brick. Exhibitions are only in the night time, the assembly sits but seldom, and rarely in the night ; but any inconvenience on that

score

score may be obviated, by sitting down the company at a distance, or even preventing exhibitions on such nights.

THE *second floor* may be an assembly room, handsomely decorated for the gentlemen and ladies, and serve also the purpose of a noble large dining room, when celebrating the great events of the nation, accommodated by withdrawing rooms, as on the floor below. The third story will serve for a military hall, and other purposes.

THAT part of the building devoted to the Theatre, will save to the town the great expense of building a hall for town meetings, being very capacious, lightsome and excellently fitted for such use ; the galleries will be so constructed, that the feeblest voice below, will be very audible, and distinctly heard in those galleries.

It is designed to have a lower floor that will contain two thousand spectators, and three galleries to contain 1500, 1500 and 1200 spectators in five distinctions of seats inclusive of the pit ; the prices thus, one shilling, eighteen pence, two shillings, two and six pence, and three shillings : or, may be varied as prudence shall suggest ; total price of the several seats including the pit, is ten shillings, which, divided by five, gives two shillings as the average price of tickets ; multiplied by 6000, gives two thousand dollars for one night of a full Theatre ; out of which deduct the proportionate share of the annual sum due for principal on the building and the interest, the proportion of salaries,
payments

payments to authors, and other incidental expenses, and there will remain a large sum, to be applied to promoting manufactures, employing the able, and maintaining the helpless poor.

If the Legislature of Massachusetts establish such a Theatre, and take proper measures to procure persons for actors, who are really excellent in their way, and make the most wholesome regulations for the government thereof, its effects on the manners of the people, must be truly astonishing. History will undoubtedly mark an era so favourable to the intellectual powers of man, in this western world.

Not only the Governors of the State, but all the members of that patriotic assembly, will be recorded as promoters of a design so grand and so beneficial. The first actors, and managers, will be also eternized; and the history of the Stage, will ever after have a conspicuous place in the history of America.

EUROPE hath overlooked the prodigious advantage to be derived from a well regulated, virtuous Theatre; and it is hoped, that the *high honour* of such an improvement, is reserved for America.

It is *now* with the Assembly of Massachusetts to seize the important moment, and give to the other states, a great example, in this instance, as they have done in most others. Moreover it is not improbable, that Europe will presently borrow your prudent regulations for the government of their Theatres in the same manner as they adopted the spirit of your constitutions;

stitutions ; and thus the new world will regenerate, and instruct the old.

THE town of Boston did before instruct their representatives on that subject, in a style of composition that did them much honour, and shewed they sought only for a virtuous Theatre ; at that time they had no idea of obtaining such a benefit, without much money expended on the building, &c. and were willing to sacrifice any reasonable sums for that purpose. They will now find it necessary to repeat their former instructions to their representatives, and this plan will procure them, without cost, a building that will serve all the purposes aforesaid, and be in truth, one of the grandest ornaments of their city—A curiosity for the traveller to behold with admiration, and describe with pleasure in his own country ! A pattern for the other States, and for the world to imitate ; will save the trouble of running over the continent for subscriptions as the New-Jersey company did.

HERE the money paid for each ticket, will in fact, become a donation towards sitting up manufactures in Boston, and the towns through the State, which will in time become national objects ; such as woollens, &c. for the country, linens, cambricks, lawns, and lace like those of Brussels and Mecklin, together with printed linens for the town, where there are *five thousand* pair of female hands, capable of lending their aid, and of giving activity to such manufactures. Those fabrics employ immense numbers of people in Flanders, and bring in annually more
F than

than two millions sterling, whereby (it is said) many children of five years old earn a livelihood.

THE present war in France and Flanders, furnish a noble opportunity to procure from thence, one or two hands or families, skilled in each fabric ; say two for Bruffel's lace and such like, two, three or four for cambricks ; one or two for fine linens, and some for printed linens. These fabrics are to be preferred, *because* of the many hands in this town, *because* that the materials are the growth of the country ; may be had in quantities at the cheapest rates ; and *because* the profits arise chiefly by the labour of women and children.

THERE are many fair hands in Boston, and the towns adjacent, who would not disdain to add to their present comforts, by preparing fine threads to be employed in such works : So far from being a discredit, it would dignify their characters, as worthy, patriotic females, whose good sense, superior to low and trifling considerations, would miss no opportunity of advancing the welfare and honour of the country.

To *all these* considerations, add that *much greater one*, public improvement in every virtue. Surely to frequent such a Theatre, will be deemed an act of virtue, a moral obligation on every one able to attend ; a duty to be encouraged by all lovers of their country, by every friend of man ! It would become an inducement, a strong excitement, to noble, patriotic spirits, to take a number of tickets for every exhibition
through

through the year, whether such purchaser attended or not.

THE number that may be supposed to attend the Theatre thrice a week the year round, will not be always so high as before stated; sometimes there will be a thin house, at others a pretty full one, and sometimes it will be thronged; a calculation is herein after made, on the lowest numbers that can be expected to attend for HALF the week, and the tickets set at *half* the common price, which leaves on hand a large balance after all expenses paid. But when the taste of the people is formed, when the good effects of such a Theatre becomes evident, as it must and will become, when all opposition is at an end, the numbers will be much *greater*; and *greater still*, some years hence, when manufactures and profitable commerce, increased by two canals which offer their aid, shall have made Boston another Mexico; with rich and populous towns at the extremity of every bridge and causeway! *Then* the Theatre will in fact be too small, though capable of containing six thousand spectators.

INDEED, at several times, and on several occasions, it will be found too small the first, and every succeeding year, as will appear from the following circumstances considered:

As commencement is a day of great concourse, and much money is carried out of town on that day, to behold one or two hundred youths perform their exercises, and take their degrees, Where would be the inconvenience, if those
young

young gentlemen performed their exercises on the Theatre, and there received their degrees ? At night each scholar to have a ticket for the Theatre gratis, the same for the preceptors and governors of the University, and each officiating divine ; moreover, each scholar who excelled in the performance of the day, to have a ticket also gratis, for such fair lady as he might choose for his partner during the evening, and be placed in some conspicuous seat.

THERE would be more room in such a building for all the spectators, and on the other side the entry, accommodation for them all to breakfast, dine and take tea with their friends, &c. whence they have but to step into the exhibition room at night.

MOREOVER, every necessary may be had cheaper in town than at Cambridge, and better accommodations.

ALL the good people of the country, other than those of Cambridge, would prefer a commencement in Boston, on account of the accommodations aforesaid, and the plays to be acted at night. Add to this, that when the concourse is very great, tents can be pitched close by, on the common, for their accommodation ; and if the day prove rainy, the number of houses in town will shelter all supernumeraries from the weather.

THERE are also a great number of public days, such as artillery election, election of representatives, &c. training days, town-meetings, and other public ones that befall occasionally. On
all

all such (if they be not the regular play nights) exhibitions should be performed ; at those times the Theatre would be crowded, a few such days would realise a great deal of money, and all together form a most respectable fund for manufactures.

SOME have urged that this plan and building is *too grand* ! With submission, and many apologies for differing from them in such opinion, it should be observed, that when a private man builds, he hath two considerations to direct him—his rank in life, and his purse : What would be very elegant and tasty for him, would be disgraceful for a nobleman, still more so for a prince ; And can such a building as is here proposed, be *too grand* for a State, whose dignity is combined with the honour and dignity of a mighty empire ? No ! It is the style of dignity and grandeur in their public buildings, that distinguish cities, states and kingdoms from one another ; and from all private characters, wherein the great cost becomes only a part of the inducement. Here the building will cost nothing ; And will any who have received the present of a large and valuable diamond, find fault with the size thereof ? Moreover it is the grandeur of this building that will induce strangers and others to attend ; and the profit will depend altogether on the number it can contain, for the expense of the company (or actors, &c.) will be equally the same in a Theatre which contains two hundred, as in one that will accommodate twenty thousand spectators ! A
few

few full houses will realize a vast sum of money, as may appear by the calculation annexed, though made only on half the week, and tickets at half price ; which together makes only a fourth of what it might be.

It will not be improper, here to observe, that it is bad policy to have more than one Theatre in any town or city ; the history of the squabbles and contests of the Theatres in London, and their improper attempts to injure each other, will fully justify this observation :

THEREFORE no persons should be suffered to entertain the public with theatric representations, dramatic pieces &c. in any town of the state, without a special licence, and the fullest assurance of conforming to the laws then made or to be made respecting such entertainments.

THIS plan ought to be precious to government ; for if carried into effect, it will do them honour, strengthen their hands, and render the administration much lighter and easier ; to the town and country it is really a scheme of profit, of the greatest magnitude ; to the friends of virtue, it holds forth a mean of preventing vice, becomes a subject of reform invaluable to all orders of the people : To the American character, what will it not become ! Where *so many* and *so great* advantages (held forth to any city, state or kingdom) *depend* only on themselves, on one single exertion, and that really a *practicable* one ; the conduct of such city, state or kingdom, thenceforth becomes an object of attention and animadversion to all mankind. These reasons are

are weighty, and should cause the building to be so large as to accommodate, at least six thousand spectators, although it might frequently happen that not more than one hundred and fifty persons attended. [See calculation.]

THE fourth of July, and new-year should be reserved for the purposes hereafter mentioned ; moreover, on the opening of the Theatre, the tickets deserve double price, nor would any person begrutch it, who considered the subject ; one caution is however necessary ; the door keepers should not suffer a drunken person to enter, on any pretence, though he have a ticket ; as the Theatre is intended only for sober people.

THE writer hath said before, that the erecting and correcting of the stage belongs to government ; and of course, the regulations for the Theatre ought to be established by laws, made or to be made, or approved by the legislature ; the conduct of the company, should at all times be a subject of legal discussion and reform. An act of incorporation will be necessary to give them existence ; and a code of laws enacted, previously devised, and framed, by gentlemen of the clergy and laity, united (persons most remarkable for *taste* and *talents*) whereby *virtuous sentiment, genuine wit, lively good humour, and true benevolence*, should be encouraged and promoted : All double entendre, low and scurrilous jesting, obscenity, lying, deceit, profane swearing, *wrangling* and immorality, should be discouraged, prevented and punished when necessary : Also a power vested in some proper persons,

persons, of making orders and by-laws for the company, extending even to the suppression protempore of the regulations made by the assembly, if found hurtful; which, with their new regulations, should be of force, till approved or disapproved by the assembly.

AND as the stage is capable of being a powerful engine in the hands of government to do good, and as capable of evil if neglected; therefore, to promote virtue throughout a whole state, which is only a preparative to religion, too much care cannot be taken, to guard the manners of every person concerned in, and with the stage; none but good characters, male, or female, should be employed, and every decorum observed between the sexes.

THE Company will consist of the following characters: One manager, one prompter, one treasurer (these to have salaries but receive no bounty or benefits) twelve actors and actresses, a band of music, of which one to be a master of composition, two viols, three vocal performers, — assistants to shift scenes, dress and undress actors and actresses, — porters and waiters; all to have salaries according to their merit, and paid monthly: No benefit nights for particular persons as in Europe; beside the foregoing, will be wanting occasionally, two painters, one carpenter, one blacksmith, two tailors and habit makers, and two mantua-makers, who all find their own materials for their work, &c.

ON the 4th of July and new years, plays to be acted for the benefit of the company; after all

all expenses paid, including the proportion of principal and interest for the building, supposed about 120l. the surplus to be divided (by the gentlemen Clergy of the town of Boston) to each one a part, down to, and including the waiters ; but to the actors, to the band, instrumental and vocal performers, larger sums, each according to rank and different degrees of merit ; in such manner as to reward those most who have most excelled. The said Clergy to have a seat for their body gratis, with a view that they may constantly attend to observe the conduct and performance of the company each night ; and that they may be the better able to do justice to the merits of all when they divide the benefit money ; which they do by writing against the name of each person upon a catalogue prepared, what sum is adjudged to each ; and those sums the treasurer pays immediately.

THIS mode of dividing the prize will excite a proper spirit of emulation in the company ; who will also strive to deserve the notice and esteem of the Clergy, and for that purpose become very observant of decency and morality.

AT this place, recollection rushes upon the pained fancy, and wounds the feeling soul of humanity for the widows and orphans of the American Clergy ! Whose hopeless condition appears more and more distressing at every view : Ye sons of America ! Much of your fame is due to the unwearied endeavours of a polite and learned Clergy, studious to store your minds with the seeds of liberty and scientific knowledge,

G

blended

blended with religious truths ; and to form your manners on virtue's fairest model : A Clergy, who, generous beyond the spirit of their order, and moved by tender regard for those whom they had led from infancy in the paths of piety ; *disunited* themselves from the old government, whose sheltering arms were ever stretched for their support ; encouraged the flame of liberty, partook of its dangers, and suffered with a suffering people. As ye cannot choose unlettered men, nor submit to rusticity of manners, the scholar and the gentleman must harangue from your pulpits, and enliven society in your hospitable halls : Thence each parish expected that their pastor would seek a fit partner for himself, a fair one used to move in the higher sphere of life ; hence their offspring, like themselves, are genteel, sensible, too tender and delicate for low offices, and hard labour. Who wish to purchase diamonds or emeralds must render a price proportioned ; nor pay with niggard stint, the teacher that gives polish and refinement to their social manners. Will you limit such to a pittance that scarcely feeds them, till death summons, and shrouds the preacher in the dark chambers of the grave ! The widow and tender infants, a prey to black despair, without or means or hope of support ; and doubly wretched by a comparison of what they have been with what they are ! Poverty to all is grievous, but to those *most*, who have been bred to genteel life ; to *them* it is misery extreme without allay ! Distresses like theirs are sacred, and call
for

for relief on every child of humanity, on every son of virtue. Hearken, ye who have challenged the world to run the race of glory, and hope to excel in every contest ; here is a call on your humanity, your honour is concerned to make provision for such distress without delay ; and to SHEW to all the living, and to admiring posterity, that in generous sensibility you excel as much as in arts and arms.

THE legislature of Massachusetts, glad of such an opportunity, will certainly grant from the Theatre one yearly benefit to the widows and orphans of the clergy throughout the state, perhaps the Thursday after election, when those gentlemen are convened in Boston ; and continue the benefaction, until the sum thereby acquired, shall bring in a clear thousand pounds per annum, or more, as they may see fit (the interest or income subject to the orders of that body at their said yearly convention) on which day, humanity will *mourn*, and virtue *blush* at a thin house.

RESPECTING the Theatre, would it not be proper to distinguish the company by some suitable badge or dress, whereby they and their servants may be every where known ; and their conduct more open to observation, &c. If the gentlemen of Boston will treat the actors with polite attention, it would cause the other orders to treat them with more respect, and excite such actors, whether male or female, to *respect themselves*.

THE Stage in Europe hath ever been served by exceptionable characters ; talents being there
more

more regarded than decency and virtuous decorum: The following trait, taken from the Royal Magazine or Quarterly Bee (published in London in the year 1750) *upon the bad consequences of vicious plays*, will serve to show the evils of their Theatres,

“ THE amusements of the Theatre are capable of the greatest benefit, when rationally applied; but of the most pernicious consequences, when its productions tend to promote infidelity and licentiousness; a melancholy instance of which is contained in the story of Eugenia; a young lady whose natural sweetness and benevolence of disposition was improved by a virtuous education; her person, equally amiable with her mind, drew the attention of one of those fashionable men of *honour*, who call the basest of actions by the name of *gallantry*; this gentleman was resolved to gratify his desires at the expense of all the ties of truth and humanity; and therefore spared no vows or promises to gain the affections of Eugenia, whose natural innocence and artless heart, hindered her from having the least suspicion of his sincerity; but notwithstanding he found the means not to be indifferent to her, he could never find that she swerved from the strictest sentiments of virtue; at last he bethought himself of a scheme on which he placed his greatest hopes; and this was by carrying her frequently to those plays which he knew had a natural tendency to soften and unguard the heart, and by this method of proceeding, he found opportunity one evening

ing, after her passions had been heightened by some very loose scenes, to effect what he almost despaired of succeeding in ; the consequence of which was, he abandoned her to misery and ruin. Her poor mother, whose happiness was centered in her daughter, sunk under the misfortune very soon ; and as to Eugenia, peace and joy seemed to have fled, and given place to continual anguish and sorrow, in a country retirement. I would infer from this story that nothing is of worse consequence towards debauching the mind, than *vicious plays* ; and how much, too many of our comedies deserve that title, I appeal to the public, who must allow with me, that by exhibiting these kind of pieces on the Stage, instead of spurring on to virtue, is the very nursery of wickedness and infidelity. It is here the libertine triumphs, knowing it to be the grand support of his ways : But let him consider, that profaneness and obscenity has been always judged to be the refuge of all those who are void of real wit and sense."

IN Europe actors are for the foregoing, and other reasons *less esteemed* ; but here there is room to hope it will be otherwise if the manners of the company be not neglected.

It would be happy if some method could be devised, to prevent loud bursts of applause, and hisses, in the Theatres at any time, and more especially by improper characters ; loud noises, and violent action producing noise or confusion, must be exceedingly disagreeable, and distressing ; all the passions may be expressed by mute,
or

or dumb shew, and praise or blame as much or more than any ; to condemn a piece that hath been approved by the manager, and the bountry paid for it, is not only a condemnation of the managers judgment, but a loss to the manufacturing fund. They may indeed be mistaken, and the public may correct the managers, but then it should be done, if possible, without noise and confusion, and by persons who are really competent judges. Sometimes it is the player, and not the play, which deserves correction, and so creates confusion and perplexity ; it is however believed, that by signs or by shew, the play or the player, may be applauded or condemned, without the least mistake as to which is meant, and without making a noise with mouth or hands ; but this is submitted to better judges and wiser heads.

ANY registered poor, convicted of disorderly conduct as aforesaid, and adjudged to forfeit his right to the Theatre, such conviction should be notified to the manager ; who will cause his name to be pasted on boards, and hung up at the several passages into the Theatre ; and the porters strictly forbidden to give such man entrance on any account, even if he should after purchase tickets, nor till he pay a fine (adjudged by the aforesaid justice) for the use of the manufacturing fund, and give ample assurance of his future good behaviour : Doing this, the magistrate aforesaid, or some other justice (in case of his death, absence or sickness) to revoke the former conviction, and give notice to the manager

ager of such revocation. Any person striking, fighting or misbehaving in the Theatre, to be fined and rebuked; on a second conviction to forfeit his right to the Theatre, and not to be restored without paying a heavier fine and giving security as aforesaid. For the sake of identifying the persons offending, all trials and convictions should be had in some apartment of the building where the porters may be present, and take knowledge of the party convicted.

As *cry of fire* or other alarm may cause the spectators to run hastily out of the Theatre in crowds, whereby many lives may be lost, the legislature will doubtless take measures that proper regulations be established for preventing such disasters.

To keep peace and good order in, and near to such buildings, the law should *sanctify* places intended, as this is, for the promotion of virtue and good manners, and render it more highly penal to quarrel and fight not only within the body of the building, but in the courts, the streets near it, &c. extending the verge of respect to the several streets, lanes and passages near by, and till the multitude can have departed and gone various ways towards their respective homes. The policy and necessity of such a measure, must be evident to every thinking person.

As rewards and punishments are best adapted to amend some tempers, so pride and shame act with greater force upon others, and those generally the noblest; a wise legislature will
ever

ever be attentive to make a proper use of each, and combine the influence of every motive, to encourage, praise and reward those who progress in the ways of virtue; to shame and punish those who deviate into the crooked paths of vice; applying these maxims to the Theatrical company, whose conduct and behaviour, must have the greatest effects on the manners of society; it would not be improper to impose small fines upon such of them (be their condition what it may) who shall make use of gross language, indecent behaviour, swearing, &c. and any person fined ten times must be incorrigible, and should be expelled the company. This suggests the idea of a petty court, or chamber of reform, to consist of the manager, one or two gentlemen of the clergy, aided by some learned, skilful justice or gentleman of the law; their powers and duties to be well defined, and limited solely to what relates to the government of the Theatre.

It may be objected, that so much precision and severity, will frighten actors from the employ; vicious persons it may and ought to frighten; but virtuous ones never! Such will be pleased with the measure, and *for those noble souls*, who have devoted themselves to glorious fame, a *reward* is prepared that shall answer their *highest* expectations, and thereby invite and secure the *greatest* geniuses and *best men* of every age: The second and third enteries of the building, or galleries, as they are frequently called, should be dedicated to *immortal fame*; every actor or actress, who really excelled,

celled, should have a full length portrait taken before death, a perfect likeness by a masterly hand, and after death a court of inquiry to be convened; the first question will be, Doth the deceased deserve a place in the gallery of fame? If yea, 2d, was his or her excellence such as particularly to deserve the crown of Bays? 3dly, Did the deceased's virtuous manners entitle to further honours? If yea, a *radiated lumen* awarded, to be placed on the left breast, betokening an acknowledged son, or daughter of virtue. Here *are* three distinct rewards to encourage merit.

IF all three be adjudged to the same person, to carry into execution the judgment of the court, a wreathed crown of the leaves and branches of the bay, or myrtle tree, which is a sweet scented evergreen, emblem of deathless fame, is to be depainted on the head of the portrait, a lumen drawn upon the breast, and the picture being properly framed and ornamented (with the name and character there under-written) should be placed with much ceremony and pomp, music the while playing some grand and solemn airs, in the gallery of fame.

THERE are souls who would be fired at the hope of such honour, to traverse the world to combat all sorts of hardships and dangers, and to suffer even death for such exalted fame! And will not such rewards call forth powerful exertion, where nature hath given the talents? Will not such super-eminent respect excite that virtue which, without reward, forever aims at excellence?

H

AFTER

AFTER saying thus much, it would be superfluous to add more, by way of inducement to noble souls, only to recommend to every one who may have the honour of belonging to the Massachusetts Stage, to accommodate his looks, words and actions, to render virtue beautiful, lovely, attractive and dignified withal. By these means, will be obtained a gallery of paintings for the connoisseur to admire, and youth to imitate; which time and attention may improve into a school of painting, that shall forever reflect honour on the American taste.

HISTORY informs how Socrates the wisest, best, and most virtuous man of the heathen world, by the keen satire, and powerful action, of the witty and wicked actor Aristophanes, was ridiculed and brought into such contempt, that in a short time, his virtues could not shield him from an unjust prosecution, and an ignominious death. It is the peculiar properties of satire and ridicule, that they cast the object of their virulence into contempt, which is not unfrequently followed (be the party ever so virtuous or respectable) with hatred, evil machinations, persecutions, ruin and death: To put such dangerous weapons for ever out of the reach of the Massachusetts Stage, it would be proper to subjoin to the orders or rules of the company, to be hung up in some conspicuous place or places in the Theatre; a *forcible address*, founded on the laws, purporting, that although the talents of the company are to be exerted, in every proper way to advance the interests of virtue and to reform

reform mankind ; that *no satire* shall be employed against the living by authors or actors, nor the powers of ridicule against any professions or sects of religion ; and that no characters shall be brought upon the Stage, or any strictures concerning them, where the party alluded to hath not been dead at least twenty five years, under heavy penalties against transgressors, made recoverable by action popular, and dismissal from the Theatre.

IT must be observed, that too many have dressed virtue in the most gloomy and forbidding garb ; whereas, if they would contrarywise strive to adorn, and make her appear cheerful, gay and beautiful, she would soon become irresistible.

OTHERS have supposed that a virtuous Theatre would resemble the houses of religious worship, and that therefore it would be incapable of amusing or giving delight, which is but a poor compliment to such houses, to virtue and to human nature. It is saying in effect, that mankind are best pleased with loose scenes, abusive wit, fallacious joys and corrupt manners ; surely the benevolent soul, the nobly just man, and the real christian, have most right to be the gay wit, the innocent humorist, and the polite gentleman. Those characters are no way incompatible ; such persons experience more real pleasure, more exquisite delight, and more forcibly express the same ; and its hoped the Theatre will produce *many* striking examples of those characters united.

ALL

ALL friends of virtue and of man, are now called upon and *invoked* by every sacred regard, to *rescue* the human character from the stigma under which it hath but too long laboured ; and for the *eternal honour* of America, let such reform begin, where the natural rights of man were first discovered, acknowledged and established.

A BOSTONIAN.



CALCULATION.

WITH respect to this subject, nothing certain can be advanced ; much depends on the character and excellence of the actors, very much also on the *merit* of the pieces to be acted, and the goodness of the music, the beauty and elegance of the scenery, &c. &c. It hath sometimes happened that a piece which hit the taste of the audience, hath had a run of thirteen, fourteen, fifteen or more evenings of a full crowded house ; such a *run* in this Theatre would *discharge* the *whole yearly demand* without other aid ; and *who* will assert that such a run may not annually be experienced here, if strict attention be paid to the article of excellence in every of the foregoing items promoted by the grandeur and dignity of such an edifice ? Especially if it was generally countenanced and even encouraged as a moral obligation ; its effect will soon make it be so considered : Hope of success in the next place depends on public days, and such particular times, when many people are called from their work, and the day being broken, they may then

then, with least prejudice to themselves, and in greatest numbers, resort to the Theatre ; such may be expected to cause full houses ; at other times it will be very different, on some nights but few, and on others more attending, just as whim, caprice, or the credit of a new actor or particular play may operate ; or if any stranger of note should be expected to attend, much company will be induced to go on such account. The law allows of five muster days to train the citizens to the use of arms ; the utility of manufactures may be a further inducement to be more attentive to those military musters ; with such a Theatre, and for such purposes it will be surprising, if the inhabitants be not generally encouraged to attend by those who lead the fashions or have influence among them.

THE following are all that occur to the mind as public days ; if any mistake be here made, or any omitted, it is hoped the gentleman discovering the same, will have the goodness to correct the error ; supposing the commencement to be holden for the future at Boston, that day and the 4th of July will collect such numbers, that there may well be two exhibitions on those days, and on the opening of the Theatre, if practicable, even three plays acted to crowded audiences ; counting on two plays that day to full houses, tickets double price all round, average at 4s. the calculation will stand thus :

Opening

Opening Theatre, two Exhibitions 12,000
tickets at 4s. £.2400

New Year, a benefit for players, there-
fore only the cost 120

March Meeting 2000 tickets at 2s. 600

Artillery Election do. do. 600

General Election do. do. 600

Thursday for Clergy, a benefit, therefore only 120

Commencement, two exhibitions 1200

Fourth of July, two exhibitions, one a ben-
efit, 120l. added to 600l. 720

Artillery Training 600

Opening Assembly 600

Thanksgiving 600

Four Military days £.600 each 2400

Opening Supreme Court 600

President Washington's anniversary 600

£.11,760

Beside what may happen occasionally.

N. B. The play nights will be Mondays,
Wednesdays, Fridays—suppose eight of those
public days to fall on play days, they must be
deducted from 3 nights a week for 52 weeks,
thus $3 \times 52 = 156$
8

Remains 148 Nights for plays.

LIST OF OFFICERS AND EXPENSES.

One Manager, salary £.300

One Prompter from Europe 350

One Treasurer 200

Deputy or Clerk (if necessary) 150

£.1000

		£.1000
Three actors from Europe, 4l. sterl- ing per week	832	
Five American actors, 250l. each per annum	1250	
Two Actresses from Europe, 150l. per year	300	
Two American Actresses, 100l. each	200	
		2582
Six of the Band, 150l. each	900	
Two Viols	250	
Three vocal performers	300	
		1450
Prompter's boy, Porters, helpers, &c. supposed	280	
Carpenters, Taylors, Mantua Makers, Scene Painters, Oil, &c. uncertain, supposed	250	
		£.5562
Building called 50,000, though cannot cost so much, annual sum 1-30th	1667	
Interest the first year	3000	
		4667
		£.10229

N. B. As the interest lessens each year, the manufacturing fund will increase in the same proportion; and when the building is paid for, all more than the company's expense will be clear gain.

The

The 148 nights are calculated thus :
 52 Mondays in the year, though devoted
 to the poor, many will purchase tick-
 ets for the best seats, suppose 100
 each night, at 2s. 10l. which multi-
 plied by 52 nights, is 520

The residue divided into 24 exhibitions
 for each three months as follows :

24	Nights	150	tickets	at	2s.	360
24	do.	300	do.	at	2s.	720
24	do.	600	do.	at	2s.	1440
24	do.	1000	do.	at	2s.	2400
148	Nights	will realize				£.5440

for carrying on manufactures.

If these be found too little, they may be in-
 creased two ways, viz. by adding to the price
 of the tickets or seats, and by adding one, two
 or three more exhibitions each week.

If 1667l. per ann. for the building, be too
 much at one payment, put the sum at 1000l.
 a year, and thus the debt will be fifty years in
 reduction. But the whole interest should be
 annually discharged.

T H E E N D.

Letter from a FRIEND to the AUTHOR.

BOSTON, October 22, 1792.

DEAR SIR,

WITH the greatest pleasure I have perused your manuscript on the advantages resulting to the community from a well regulated Theatre. I am convinced that the ultimate motive which induced you to communicate your thoughts on this important subject, was the promotion of social happiness and refined morality. As a lover of mankind, you have taken an interested part in the state of society ; and the glow of the *philanthropist* has not lost its fervour in passing from the *bosom* to the *pen*.

THE nature and progress of the drama has lately received the most liberal discussion by several hands ; and the subject has merited the attention which it has so generally arrested. For what can be more interesting to a nation, than investigating a design which proposes to enhance its pleasures, increase its knowledge, and unshackle *one* of its rights ! Such is the Theatre under the improvements you have made.

ANARCHY may subvert the order of society, and tyranny may destroy its blessings ; but a republic which has triumphed over both, may boast the happy privilege of investigating without the intemperate zeal of the one, and of deciding without the compulsion of the other. Unbiaffed by prejudice, every reader will find in your pamphlet, sufficient conviction for every rational to confess that a well regulated Theatre

on your plan, would advance, without collision, every interest of the agricultural, manufactural, commercial and literary departments of this extensive Commonwealth.

OUR Legislature will doubtless at their ensuing session, take into consideration those many and important advantages, originating in the establishment of your American Lyceum. Their experience of human nature, must have instilled the observation, that the spirits of a nation unless directed to virtue, will deviate into vice. That the principle of emulation which operates in every bosom, is the stimulus of almost every action. The hero has his Alexander to rival ; the philosopher his Newton, and the statesman his Pericles. The industrious peasant is ambitious to copy the manners of a more affluent neighbour ; the ingenious mechanic emulates the reputation of some inventor, or improver in the useful arts : And the most short-sighted mind, whose ideas were never extended beyond the contracted limits of the present hour, can form a comparison of situations, and envy, though it cannot obtain the more eligible.

THIS imitative faculty is the grand *hinge* of society ; on its motions depend both the virtues that ennoble, and the vices that corrupt the constitution of man. To arrest this active principle which is so influential in turning the scale of empire ; to direct it to its proper object, and engage it in a cause that shall exalt the dignity, and gratify the pride of human nature, is not only the true province of the Stage, but the policy, the duty, the glory of legislation.

THE

THE Theatre, it may be objected, has been productive of more evils than blessings to society, being corrupted by profligate managers. This however is no argument against its utility ! Every blessing that the indulgent God of nature ever lavished on mankind, has either been treated with contempt, or prostituted by perversity ! Religion, that sweetest boon of life, has been abused by mankind ; heaven, to whom their warmest gratitude is due, has been insulted ; and the earth which was created for their subsistence and happiness, has been deluged in the blood of its inhabitants.

GRANTING however, that the Theatre has been instrumental in generating disorders in society, still these futile objections cannot reach the regulated plan now proposed for our adoption. The evils which are urged in *opposition*, were the offspring of ages, whose boasted improvements were only a refinement on barbarity, and of nations whose coffers were exhausted to embellish the *buskin*. The Theatre is now introduced to our attention under an improved form ! Its irregularities are discarded, and its corruptions eradicated ; its benefits are enlarged, and its pleasures sublimed. Its effects will polish the education of youth, correct licentiousness, strengthen the hands of government, reform the sentiments and manners of society, promote religion, and serve to elevate the American name and character.

To discountenance the introduction of the *new* Theatre, because the *old* had sometimes an immoral

immoral tendency, would be to lead our children to the altar, to swear eternal enmity to liberty ; because licentiousness is sometimes its consequence

THE repeated attempts that have been made to establish a Theatre in this town, the sanguine applause, and generous encouragement which such attempts have received, fully evince that the erection of a Stage is an object in the minds of the people ; whose *wishes*, while they do not militate with their happiness, ought not to be frustrated by any legislative body on earth.

CIVIL authorities are constituted for the express purpose of promoting the prosperity and felicity of the nation ; and should a plan of a Theatre be so constructed, that it should promise not only to instruct and entertain, but to increase the revenue, those nerves of government, such a plan ought to be deemed worthy the countenance of our political guardians. It has hitherto been affirmed, in evasion, that no such plan could ever be devised ; and if it were possible, its regulations must of necessity be so severe, as to abridge its pleasures, and alien all its votaries. This assertion, so disgraceful to human nature, is only the bold presumption of ignorance, untaught by judgment, truth or experience, and (from attending circumstances) may be judged to be fabricated as a veil for the blush of conviction.

THE subject has now been brought to the *ordeal*, and happily for the honour of the elegant arts, experiment has demonstrated, that (however

ever romantic and visionary the object may appear in the phlegmatic comprehension of the Stoic) a prospect so grateful to the philanthropic mind, is not reserved for the eye of fancy alone. To slake the thirst of native emulation, from the streams of virtue and truth, and on the scale of progressive being, to approximate the rank of angel and man, is a task not unworthy of political wisdom.

IT is a task, which the virtuous Theatre, that friend of refinement, and handmaid to happiness, is best calculated to perform.

ONE great advantage to be derived from it, is, that the knowledge of the world we imbibe, is not obtained at our own expense; we are taught by the example and experience of others, who have been engaged long before, in the drama of human action; and we are previously prepared, ere the curtain is drawn, to act our parts with honour on the busy Theatre of life.

WHILE we reflect, that the cheek of human nature has often been tinged with the blush of remorse, and the bosom of virtue, has often glowed with rapture at the triumph of her sons; be it ours to exult, that the recorded experience of ancient ages, is one of the greatest blessings of later generations; be it ours to realize that glorious epoch in the history of refinement, when, like art in her rivalry with nature, the scenery of the drama shall become the real picture of life. Then shall we behold virtue exhibited in all those charms and endearments that

enrapture

enrapture the eye of admiration, and warm the bosom of love. Then shall we behold vice stripped of all the gloss of artificial allurements, and like her parent Gorgon, marbling every countenance with horror. On re-perusing your pamphlet, the advantages it ostends, appeared so numerous and great, that to digest and enumerate all of them, would be but repeating your own words. I have therefore made only a summary, which I dare not now aver to do justice to the treatise ; but you, or your ingenious readers, may insert such as are omitted.

1. It will invite foreigners to reside in Boston, and leave much money therein.

2. Invites spectators from the adjacent towns, &c. many of whom will be induced to purchase their wares and merchandize.

3. Proposes to save the cash carried out to commencement, and will bring much money into town.

4. Becomes (by its exhibitions and honorary distinctions) a stimulus to the students to excel in their respective pursuits.

5. The building will furnish employ to mechanics, artificers and labourers, and thus half maintain their families *and many* such, after finished.

6. Obtains without cost, a grand ornamental building, the pride of America, which, beside the purpose of a Theatre, will serve for the uses following. Say,

7. A noble room for the Legislature to assemble in.

8. For town meetings in that part devoted to the Theatre.

9. An assembly room for the ladies and gentlemen.

10. A grand dining room on public occasions.

11. A military hall, where a regiment may exercise together, and each entry will serve two companies more.

12. The Theatre part will be *convenient* also for lectures, preaching, &c.

13. The vaults below will let for money.

14. The building when paid for, will become the property of the town and bring in a large clear *revenue* :

15. Which will operate as a remission of poor rates.

16. The entries, piazza, &c. will afford the most pleasant walk for the healthy gentlemen and ladies, and expedite the recovery of the val-etudinary.

17. The tendency of this Theatre is to reform manners, enforce good order, suppress mobs, &c. &c. &c.

18. Proposes relaxation from hard labour, study, business, &c. as well by games, lectures, &c. as by the Theatre.

19. Withdraws from taverns, alehouses, gaming houses and bad houses, those who have formerly haunted such places, and will render them detestable.

20. Preserves the indigent helpless females from the necessity of earning bread by improper means.

21. Furnishes pleasing entertainment to the curious, and reforms manners still more than it instructs the man.

22. Attempts to establish harmony, love and esteem between the country and the town, by shewing that they mutually help and enrich each other, and that though the merchant hath some fine shewy advantages, that nature hath amply compensated all these to the country, nay more, hath been partial to them, and it gives them invitation to come and partake with their brethren in town at the feast of *souls*.

23. Proposes games and sports to strengthen the body, and to awake a spirit of emulation, serving to invigorate the mind, and give it confidence in its own powers.

24. Furnishes many topics of conversation with a view to banish slander and detraction, those enemies to social happiness.

25. By reforming the manners of the metropolis becomes a mean of reforming manners in the country.

26. The proposed lectures, beside an agreeable relaxation from business, will open doors to improvement in the several sciences treated of, and will give real knowledge and celebrity to Massachusetts.

27. The military evening exercises and lectures, will tend to form soldiers in time of peace, will prevent invasions, and become a strong defence in time of war.

28. The incomes from this Theatre are intended to establish manufactures that shall become great national objects——To employ the able and maintain the helpless poor.

29.

29. Such manufactures will employ multitudes of people in every part of the state, increase the demand for provision, for iron, hemp, flax, and all other things necessary to carry on such works.

30. Will invite tradesmen and manufacturers from Europe, multiply the number of inhabitants, and increase the wealth and power of the state in like proportion.

31. Will set up manufacturing towns at the extremity of every bridge and causeway communicating with Boston, increase the number of inhabitants in the towns nearest, already pretty full, till they unite, and form the periphery of a large semicircle, whereof Boston will be the centre, and common port.

32. Manufactures of various kinds, some original, and some preparatory for other arts, will arise, and be established on every run of water, and in every part of the state.

33. Increase of manufactures will create a vast demand for provisions and other products of the earth, and thus serve in a double proportion to encourage husbandry, and enrich the farmers of the state.

34. Estates in town and country will be thus greatly advanced in value to the owners.

35. The manufactures enumerated are only a part of what will be established, but these are selected because they depend on articles which are the growth of the country, and should always be first promoted; here is the flax ready to be wrought; here are many thousand hands ready for the work, and there are many families in

K

France

France and Flanders, ready to flee to a country of peace and liberty, where they may set up, and carry on their respective fabrics ; the Theatre will furnish funds, and nothing wanting but a disposition to set those wheels in motion which would accomplish all these great purposes.

36. The fabrics mentioned below being rich and highly prized, and as the materials cost little or nothing, it is plain the principal amount of their value, must be the labour of the people employed on them ; and much of that will be the labour of women and children, which is in truth no small advantage.

37. The merchants, beside the custom derived from a vast increase of inhabitants, will have the means of exporting rich and valuable cargoes of cambricks, lawns, fine linen, printed linens and costly laces, proper for the markets of Veracruz, Mexico, Lima, Chili, &c. whence the return, will come in gold and silver, unless other articles more profitable may be there purchased.

38. The town of Boston will have a Theatre whose majestic appearance will become its greatest ornament, while its excellent regulations, and more surprising effects, will be the boast of Bostonians in all the nations of the earth.

39. It will then be acknowledged, that Boston hath discovered and attained, what Greece and Rome of old time, and Europe of later days, had entirely overlooked ; namely, the benefits of a virtuous, well regulated Theatre, and of rendering an engine of vice instrumental in the promotion of virtue.

40. The seminaries of learning, the pulpit, the Bar, the Bench, the Senate, in fine, the manners, sentiments and souls of the inhabitants will feel its enlivening and exalting powers.

41. The governors and legislators of the state will have just ground of triumph, that they were the first to plan and execute a design worthy of such wise men, and prudent counsellors ; a design worthy to be deemed the boast of great and powerful nations.

42. The state of Massachusetts will have the honour of giving effect to a system, which as it unites and promotes the elegant and useful arts, must be great and honourable in itself ; and still greater as productive of a revolution in manners favourable in the highest degree to the improvement and exaltation of the human genius.

43. The whole union will, in time, feel its beneficial effects, and boast of a Theatre calculated to take advantage of the happy coincidence of *clime, soil and genius*, to exalt the late Anglo American subjects above all the nations of the globe.

THIS summary will not only arrest attention, but astonish the mind, that so many, so great advantages, could have been comprised in one system. To give it effect depends now on our Legislature, to whose deliberation, the eye of attention will be turned with indiscrible solicitude.

I AM, with every sentiment of esteem,
Dear Sir, your very sincere friend,
and devoted humble servant,

* *

WM. HALIBURTON, ESQ.



DISTRICT of MASSACHUSETTS—*To wit :*

*
*
* SEAL. *
*
*
*
BE it remembered, That on the
eighteenth day of October, in the seven-
teenth year of the Independence of the United
States of America, WILLIAM HALIBURTON of
the said district, hath deposited in this office, the
Title of a book, the right whereof he claims as Author, in the
words following, to wit : “EFFECTS of the STAGE on the MAN-
NERS of a PEOPLE, and the Propriety of Encouraging and Estab-
lishing a VIRTUOUS THEATRE. By a BOSTONIAN.”

In conformity to the act of the Congress of the United States,
intituled, “An act for the encouragement of learning, by se-
curing the copies of Maps, Charts and Books, to the Authors
and Proprietors of such copies, during the times therein men-
tioned.”

N. GOODALE, *Clerk of the District
of Massachusetts.*

A true Copy of Record. }
Attest, N. GOODALE. }

